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ROCKLAND COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

NEWSBRIEF

www.rocklandbar.org

November 2022

President's Post

After a long absence, how uplifting was it to gather at The View in Piermont for our Annual Dinner! The highlight of the evening was Hon. Hector LaSalle, Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division, Second Department. He spoke on the cogent issue of maintaining judicial independence as well as security for the judiciary. Several of his colleagues from the Appellate Division were with us including Rockland's own, Hon. Linda Christopher, who introduced Justice LaSalle. Other Associate Justices, the Hon. Fran Connolly, Hon. Colleen Duffy and Hon. Joseph Zayas were also there.

Rockland's judiciary was well represented with the Hon. Paul Marx opening the dinner with the Pledge of Allegiance after an enjoyable and informal cocktail hour with delicious hors d'oeuvres. Before dinner, we heard "America the Beautiful" sung by vocalist Celeste Fleurival culminating with rendition of Eres Tu (It is You) delivered in Spanish as a tribute to Justice LaSalle.

It was moving to have Dan Bertolino, Esq. pay tribute to our colleague, Dave Goldstein, Esq., who left us all too soon.

Hon. William Warren received our Lifetime Achievement Award, Mary Lynn Nicolas-Brewster, Esq. received the Natalie Couch Award, and Amy Mara, Esq. received the Sterns Award. All well-deserved honors for their collective contribution on behalf of the Association and its Members.

We paid tribute to Ira Schoeps, Esq. who has years of service to the Association. As a diehard Yankee fan, he was surprised to receive an autographed seat from Yankee Stadium with a video tribute from former Yankee centerfielder, Bernie Williams.

We are looking to attract at next year's dinner another judicial luminary and we will soon start planning for that event.

The Ninth Judicial District's "Access to Justice" Committee, Chaired by the Hon. James Hyer, launched a mediation training program. It was very well attended and has the support of our judiciary. This is the first training program so please look out for the next one. Several local attorneys are intent on being part of the mediation panel in the Ninth Judicial District. I hear the new mantra, "Mediate Rather Than Litigate". Before you gear up for trial, why not prepare for mediation, reducing the uncertainty of trial and the costs of taking a verdict. Mediation appears to be the wave of the future.

We have an active Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee under the leadership of Laurie Dorsainvil, Esq. and Andrea Composto, Esq. If any of you wish to participate in the Committee, please reach out to them. Our Lawyer Referral Service continues to provide consistent referrals to our members in their respective area of expertise. Monthly Practitioner's Chats continue to draw many of our colleagues. This month's chat will dialogue "dealing with difficult adversaries and judges." Continue to look out for our ongoing CLE programs. Why not just drop by our offices at 337 N Main St, New City, NY 10956 and say hello to the staff and introduce yourself to our Executive Director, Nancy Low-Hogan.

Come to our Holiday Party on Thursday, December 15 at Nyack Grill and Bar!

If any of you have suggestions as to how to make our RCBA more relevant, please give me a call.

Take a moment to just reflect on how fortunate we are to be in a profession enabling us to make a living, helping others and deriving a sense of accomplishment in whatever realm we occupy. This is the time to give thanks. Gratitude, stay with us throughout the year - gratitude for what we have, what we have accomplished, and what we have yet to achieve.

Best wishes for a joyful Thanksgiving.

Robert (Rob) L. Fellows, Esq.
President

RCBA Cares

The following resources are provided to you courtesy of the Lawyer to Lawyer Committee.*

Lawyer Assistance Programs

New York State Bar Association: 1-800-255-0569; lap@nysba.org

New York City Bar Association: 212-302-5787; <https://nysba.org/attorney-well-being/>

Suicide Prevention

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255) - National, Toll-Free, 24 Hours

Crisis Text Line: Need help? Text START to 741-74 1

Chemical Dependency and Self-Help Sites

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA): 212-870-3400; www.aa.org

International Lawyers in A.A. (ILAA): www.ilaa.org

Narcotics Anonymous (NA): 818-773-9999; www.na.org

Nicotine Anonymous (NA): 1-877-TRY-NICA; nicotine-anonymous.org

Mental Health

Depressed Anonymous: depressedanon.com

National Mental Health Association (NMHA) - 1-800-273-TALK (8255) to reach a 24-hour crisis center; Text MHA to 741741 at the Crisis Text Line

Source: Andrew Denney, Bureau Chief of NYLJ and the New York State Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

****For more information about the Lawyer to Lawyer Committee, please email Manuela Gomez at manuela@rocklandbar.org***

Village of Nyack Seeks Village Attorney

Contact: Andy Stewart, Village Administrator, administrator@nyack-ny.gov, 845-358-3581

Deadline for resumes and letters of interest: November 15, 2022

The Village seeks an attorney to handle all legal matters for the Village, including:

1. Legal counsel to the Mayor, and to the Board of Trustees (“BOT”), and attendance at two monthly evening regular meetings of the BOT (plus a very limited number of BOT “special” meetings).
2. Drafting of Local Laws; except for expansive amendments or overhauls of the Zoning Code, or the Village Code generally, which will be handled by the Village Planner or an outside retained Planning Consultant.
3. Legal counsel to the Planning Board (“PB”), and attendance at one monthly evening meeting of the PB.
4. Legal counsel to the Zoning Board of Appeals (“ZBA”), and attendance at one monthly evening meeting of the ZBA.
5. Legal counsel to the clerk/secretary (if any) to the PB and the ZBA.
6. Legal counsel to the Building Department relating to land use applications, Code violations, and other general legal matters.
7. Legal counsel to the Village Clerk-Treasurer, and to all Village Officials; except for matters being handled by outside legal counsel (e.g., labor/employment).
8. Prosecution of, and attendance at Village Justice Court proceedings regarding, violations of the Village Code and NYS Building and Fire Codes (“Code violations”), which Court sessions are expected to be held once per month in the morning.
9. Prosecution of, and attendance at Village Justice Court proceedings regarding, violations of the NYS Vehicle and Traffic Law (“VTL”), which VTL Court sessions are expected to be held a maximum of three times per month (in the morning) with one VTL Court session to be held simultaneously with the Code violations Court session.
10. Legal counsel to the Architectural Review Board (“ARB”), and attendance at one monthly evening meeting of the ARB.
11. Drafting VTL plea-by-mail offer (“PBMO”) letters for VTL violations, which PBMO letters will instruct the VTL defendants to submit their signed accepted (or rejected) PBMO letters to the Village Justice Court for processing – the Court will process the signed PBMO letters, mail the fine notices, and administer the fine payments. The Village will provide all stationary (paper and envelopes), printing and postage, and arrange for mailing of the PBMO letters.
12. Office hours in Village hall.

Nyack residency is preferred, but candidates who live in the counties of Rockland, Westchester and Orange are encouraged to apply.

Salary range: \$75,000-\$85,000. NYSHP Empire Plan. Start Date: January 1, 2023.

Nyack is a vibrant historic Hudson River village and cultural destination with 7,200 residents.

<https://www.nyack-ny.gov/media/Personnel/Village%20of%20Nyack%20Seeks%20Village%20AttorneyR1.pdf>

Andy Stewart

Village Administrator

Village of Nyack

9 North Broadway

Nyack, New York 10960

(o) 845-358-3581

administrator@nyack-ny.gov

STATE OF NEW YORK UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM—JOB POSTINGS

1. POSITION TITLE: Principal Attorney

LOCATION: Mental Hygiene Legal Service

White Plains, Westchester County

BASE SALARY: \$114,413 + \$4,300 LOCATION PAY

CLASSIFICATION: Non-Competitive/Confidential

QUALIFICATIONS: Admission to the New York State Bar and two (2) years of service in the Associate Attorney title; or Equivalent legal experience. ***To be qualified for this position, you must have a valid driver's license and a properly registered automobile for use in performing official duties away from your assigned station.***

2. POSITION TITLE: Attorney

LOCATION: Mental Hygiene Legal Service

Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County

CLASSIFICATION: Non-Competitive/Confidential

QUALIFICATIONS: Admission to the New York State bar. ***To be qualified for this position, you must have a valid driver's license and a properly registered automobile for use in performing official duties away from your assigned station.***

3. POSITION TITLE: Senior Attorney

LOCATION: Mental Hygiene Legal Service

Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County

CLASSIFICATION: Non-Competitive/Confidential

QUALIFICATIONS: Admission to the New York State bar and two (2) years of service in the Attorney title; or equivalent legal experience. ***To be qualified for this position, you must have a valid driver's license and a properly registered automobile for use in performing official duties away from your assigned station.***

4. POSITION TITLE: Associate Attorney

LOCATION: Mental Hygiene Legal Service

Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County

CLASSIFICATION: Non-Competitive/Confidential

QUALIFICATIONS: Admission to the New York State Bar and two (2) years of service in the Senior Attorney title; or equivalent legal experience. ***To be qualified for this position, you must have a valid driver's license and a properly registered automobile for use in performing official duties away from your assigned station.***

APPLICATION PROCEDURES: All interested persons meeting the minimum qualifications are encouraged to submit a UCS-5 Application for Employment form (obtainable from any administrative office in a court building or on the web at www.nycourts.gov/careers/UCS5.pdf) and a resume and cover letter by email to MHLS2-HR@nycourts.gov



PRACTITIONERS CHAT

with

Nicole DiGiacomo, Esq. and Jane Cowles, Esq.

The Challenges of Practice:

How to Manage Difficult Judges/Parts, Attorneys and Clients

Wednesday, November 9, 2022

12:45 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

No Charge

RSVP to Manuela Gomez

manuela@rocklandbar.org

to receive the Zoom link

*Informal and confidential virtual roundtable discussions
for RCBA members*

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THURSDAY NOVEMBER 10, 2022

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6:00pm-10:00pm

\$100 PP - Dinner, Wine, Beer Soda
Cash Bar

RSVP By October 21, 2022

Lhinson@nycourts.gov (914) 824 5427
cash or checks payable to cash

**The Committee on Diversity,
Equity & Inclusion presents...**

SPOTLIGHT

On

Hon. Djinsad Desir

Hello Judge Desir! Thank you for talking with me today! We are looking forward to learning a little bit about you in today's Spotlight Interview. Why don't we start with telling us where you grew up?

I grew up in Rockland County and have lived in Garnerville, New City, and Haverstraw.

Tell us about your Educational Background.

I went to North Rockland High School and then entered undergraduate school at NYU where I studied Finance as my major. I received my J.D. in 2009 from Cardozo Law School.



Did you always want to be a lawyer?

No. When I went to college, I thought I wanted to work in IT or Business but honestly, I really hated IT. So I tried pursuing Finance and after graduating, I worked in Corporate Finance for less than one year. I knew it was not for me. When I was thinking about what I wanted to do with my life, I remembered my Business Law Professor at NYU, Richard Hendler. He used to tell me that I would make a good lawyer and that always stuck with me so I took the LSATs and the rest is history.

Tell us about your legal career from the Bar to the Bench.

I knew after law school that I wanted to come home and work in Rockland. I applied and was accepted at the Legal Aid Society of Rockland County and worked there for two years in their Housing Unit. It was the best job I could have out of law school. I gained hands-on experience and worked with seasoned attorneys who mentored and guided me in my formative years as a new attorney. From there, I worked for Vernon & Ginsberg, LLP, a boutique law firm in New York City, where I focused my work on appellate practice.

Continued...

It was during my time at Vernon & Ginsberg LLP that I was approached to run for Spring Valley Justice Court, which I did, and was elected in 2013. I sat for two terms as Spring Valley Justice until 2021 when I was elected as Town Justice for the Town of Ramapo. Backing up a bit, in 2016 I had the wonderful opportunity to interview with newly elected County Court Judge Larry J. Schwartz and was hired as his Principal Court Attorney. I continue to hold this position to this day.

Thank you for sharing your professional life with us, can you tell us a little bit about your personal life?

Of course! I am married to my wife, Ashley, who is also an attorney. We have a beautiful two year old daughter Amal and we live in Suffern.

Who is your Inspiration or Hero?

My Great Uncle. While I have never met him physically, I truly am inspired by him. I have grown up with my family speaking of him, his work as a judge in Haiti, and they always spoke of him with such reverence and respect. They were always so proud of him for his accomplishments. It was very inspiring to me.

What is one piece of good advice that you have received/learned?

I know it may sound a little glib, but I am reading a Charlie Brown book with my daughter and there is a theme in this book... there is only one you so, "Embrace It". Embrace what makes you, you. That's a celebration of your heritage, your culture, your upbringing...all the things that make you unique and special. I always try to be the same person everywhere I go because that is the best way that I can celebrate and honor those who came before me.

Tell us one of your guilty pleasures.

I have to say that the John Wick movie series is definitely a guilty pleasure. I keep watching them over and over!

Is there anything else we didn't cover that you would like the Bar Association to know about you?

Yes. I am the first black judge to serve as a Town Justice in Rockland County. I am honored yet also hopeful that I will be the first of many.

[NOVEMBER 2022]

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION ISSUES OF INTEREST

Submitted by Joseph Churgin, Esq. and Susan Cooper, Esq.*

Your client lives in a six-lot subdivision created in 1945 adjacent to a lake. Your client is the only year-round resident in the subdivision. The access road for all properties is indicated by metes and bounds on the filed subdivision map, and cuts through your client's property close to his house. Your client wants to move the portion of the road on his property further away from his house at his sole expense, due to the dangerous condition created by his seasonal neighbors, their guests, and trespassers using the road at all hours in cars and recreational vehicles, often while intoxicated. The neighbors will not agree, for unstated reasons. You commenced an action seeking a declaration that your client is permitted to move the location of the road where it passes through your client's property, without affecting the neighbors' access to their properties. The neighbors opposed and cross-moved to dismiss for failure to state a cause of action.

Will your client be allowed to move the road?

The answer is "no."

In *Marlow v. Greene*, NYLJ 1658833876NYEC2021333 (Sup. Ct. Washington Co. July 7, 2019), Case No. EC2021-33381, the plaintiff was the only year-round resident in a six-lot subdivision created on Summit Lake in 1945. The access road was located by metes and bounds on the filed subdivision map, and bisects plaintiff's property near his house. There is no homeowners' association or agreement for maintenance of the road. Only one neighbor's chain of title includes an express grant to use the road. All of the original conveyances of the lots reference the filed subdivision map.

The neighbors, who use their properties only seasonally, have rebuffed the plaintiff's offer to move the road location as it crosses his property, at his sole expense. Plaintiff claims that the neighbors, their guests, and third parties create a dangerous condition by speeding in cars and recreational vehicles at all hours, sometimes intoxicated. The plaintiff commenced an action against the five neighbors, seeking a declaration that he can relocate the road on this property at his sole expense, and then block the road where it now exists. The defendants moved to dismiss for failure to state a cause of action.

Continued...

The Court began by citing various cases that discuss easement rights, all quoting the seminal case of *Lewis v. Young*, 92 N.Y.2d 443 (1998). “[W]here the intention in granting an easement is to afford only a right of ingress and egress, it is the right of passage, and not any right in a physical passageway itself, that is granted to the easement holder.” According to *Lewis* and its progeny, a servient landowner may unilaterally relocate an “undefined right of ingress and egress.” However, the Court noted, “[o]nce an easement is definitively located, by grant or by use, its location cannot be changed by either party unilaterally,” citing *Estate Ct., LLC v. Schnall*, 49 A.D.3d 1076, 1077 (2008), quoting *Clayton v. Whitton*, 233 A.D.2d 828, 829 (1996).

The parties agreed that the defendants had an implied easement over the plaintiff’s property by virtue of conveyances that referred to the subdivision map showing the road. They also agreed that there is a metes and bounds description of the road on the map. However, plaintiff contended that the road is not within the metes and bounds, is not in its original location, and is, therefore, an undefined right of way subject to unilateral relocation.

While the Court gave plaintiff credit for an “inventive” argument, it held that the argument “flies in the face of controlling case law,” namely, “[u]nilateral relocation is not permitted where there is ‘an indication that the parties intended to permanently fix the easement’s location,’” citing *Rosen v. Mosby*, 148 A.D.3d 1228, 1231 (2017), quoting *MacKinnon v. Croyle*, 72 A.d.3d 1356, 1357 (2010).

The Court declined plaintiff’s invitation for expansion of *Lewis v. Young*, explaining, “it is not this Court’s prerogative to overrule or disregard a precedent of the Court of Appeals.” The Court granted defendants’ motion to dismiss for failure to state a cause of action.

The lesson? If your client has an easement that is specifically located, whether by grant or adverse use, the consent of all parties to the easement is needed to change it, even where the change would not cause harm to any of the other easement holders.

*By Joseph Churgin, Esq. and Susan Cooper, Esq. of
SAVAD CHURGIN, LLP, Attorneys at Law

THE PRACTICE PAGE**BURDEN OF PROOF FOR MUNICIPAL LIABILITY ON SUMMARY JUDGMENT**

Hon. Mark C. Dillon *

There is no shortage of cases where plaintiffs seek damages for injuries sustained as a result of alleged municipal negligence. As the bar is aware, municipal defendants are not liable for injuries arising out of certain dangerous conditions, such as those involving defective highways and sidewalks, absent prior written notice to the municipality and a failure to then correct the condition within a reasonable time (GML 50-g). Prior written notice statutes represent a waiver of sovereign immunity, but on condition that written notification of an alleged defective condition be received, and not timely acted upon, for liability to potentially attach.

Two exceptions exist where municipalities lose their statutory prior notice protections. One is when a municipal actor creates a dangerous condition through an affirmative act of negligence (*Amabile v City of Buffalo*, 93 NY2d 471) which has immediate effect (*Oboler v City of New York*, 8 NY3d 888) and which, in effect, is tantamount to “self-notice.” That affirmative negligence exception was expanded somewhat in *San Marco v Village/Town of Mount Kisco*, 16 NY3d 111, where a municipality may be held liable for affirmative conduct that creates a known and foreseeable risk --- in that case, piling snow as to create a snowmelt and refreeze at a parking lot. The second exception to prior written notice is when the condition’s location is subject to the municipality’s “special use” (*Amabile v City of New York*, *supra*; *Yarborough v City of New York*, 10 NY3d 726). Oftentimes, a plaintiff’s complaint and/or bill of particulars will identify the theory of municipal liability as defect creation or special use, particularly in instances where prior written notice to the municipality is lacking.

When a municipal defendant moves for summary judgment on the ground of the absence of prior written notice, and has the burden on the motion of proving its *prima facie* entitlement to the requested relief, is it sufficient for the municipality to merely evidence that prior written notice was never received? Or, to meet its burden of proof, must the municipality go a step further and establish the inapplicability of the two exceptions --- that it did not affirmatively create the dangerous condition and did not make any special use of the subject location --- when either of those exceptions are specifically alleged in a complaint or bill of particulars?

The answer to these questions were recently provided in an erudite opinion of Justice Robert Miller of the Second Department, in *Smith v City of New York*, __ AD3d __, 2022 WL 4361183 [Sept. 21, 2022]]. The plaintiff in *Smith* slipped on ice on a municipal access road and alleged that the City had affirmatively created the injury-producing condition. The City moved for summary judgment on the ground that it did not receive prior written notice of the dangerous condition as required by NYC Administrative Code 7-201. The City stated in its moving papers that the burden shifted to the plaintiff opposing summary judgment to establish that one of the exceptions applies. Ultimately, the Appellate Division, in resolving a split of appellate authorities on this interesting burden-shifting issue, agreed with the City that notwithstanding what is specifically alleged by the plaintiff, the City need only address for summary judgment purposes the absence of prior written notice; and that thereafter, the plaintiff bears the burden of raising a question of fact regarding an exception. The reasoning, says the court in *Smith*, is the language of the Court of Appeals in *Yarborough v City of New York*, *supra* and *Groninger v Village of Mamaroneck*, 17 NY3d 125, which define the evidentiary burden in prior notice cases in that particular sequence. This is distinguishable from other actions that do not involve municipalities, where private defendants do not enjoy sovereign immunity or its waiver upon stated conditions. Further, the *Smith* opinion now firmly aligns the Second Department with the approach of the other three Departments (*Dunn v City of New York*, 206 AD3d 403[1st Dep’t.]; *Vnuk v City of Albany*, 191 AD3d 1056 [3rd Dep’t.]; *Franklin v Learn*, 191 AD3d 982]).

*Mark C. Dillon is a Justice of the Appellate Division, 2nd Dept., an Adjunct Professor of New York Practice at Fordham Law School, and a contributing author to the CPLR Practice Commentaries in McKinney’s.

Technology Tips for Attorneys

Submitted by Michael Loewenberg*

I was talking to my friend Steve, an attorney, and he told me that he reads my columns every month. He told me that he prints some of them and takes them home to implement of the tips and tricks. That was great to hear! I asked him if there was anything he would like me to write about and he said he would like to understand how to use his phone by talking to it. So Steve, this one's for you!

If you have an iPhone, you have Siri, Apple's built-in Digital Assistant. If you have an Android device, you have Google Assistant. Both platforms allow you to control your phone with voice commands. On an iPhone, you set up Siri when you first set up your device. With an Android phone, you run the Google Assistant app and then, in settings, you do voice match so the phone knows how to best match your voice. Once you're set up, you're ready to use your voice with your phone.

You wake Siri up by saying, "Hey Siri" and you wake Google Assistant with "OK Google" or "Hey Google". You can ask your phone for any information and Siri or Google will answer you. Ask about the weather. Sports scores. Open an app. Dictate and send a message. Call a number. Start navigating using maps. Tell it to remind you to do something.

Let's get specific. Here's how you can use Siri or Google Assistant every day:

When driving, tell your phone to remind you to do things (e.g., "remind me to review the Power of Attorney for the Smith sale").

Send text messages by voice commands (e.g., "send a text message to <name> that I'll be at the contract signing 20 mins.>").

Ask about the weather.

Ask about sports scores.

I use voice control a lot when I'm driving. I think of things I need to do and set a reminder. Of course, you need to add looking at your Reminders to your routine to make that effective but it's easy if you find your productivity increasing from using voice reminders. Pro tip: your phone is location aware so you can set a reminder to alert you to do something when you arrive at a location. For example, "remind me to go to Courtroom 413 when I arrive at the County Courthouse" and "remind me to call Stu when I arrive at work."

You can run the Google Assistant app along with Siri on an iPhone so you can have both in play. You can ask either one for help with the appropriate "Hey..." wake up word. To set that up, open the Google Assistant app on your iPhone (you might have to get it from the App Store) and then select the option to add the Google Assistant app to Siri. Then you can say "Hey Siri. Ok Google" to give a command to Google Assistant.

Search on the internet for tips and tricks about Google Assistant and Siri. If you get used to dictating and speaking commands, you'll find all sorts of ways to talk to your phone instead of typing.

Drop me a line if you have tech topics you'd like me to write about —> mike@meshbiz.com.

*Michael Loewenberg is the President of MESH Business Solutions, Inc., New City, NY, 10956 and he is also an Affiliate Member of the RCBA.

RCBA ONLINE CLE PROGRAMS PRESENT

TRANSFORMING OUTCOMES WITH STRUCTURED CO-PARENTING COMMUNICATION

Thursday, November 10, 2022
12:30 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.

WEBINAR VIA ZOOM

We've all had a tough year.

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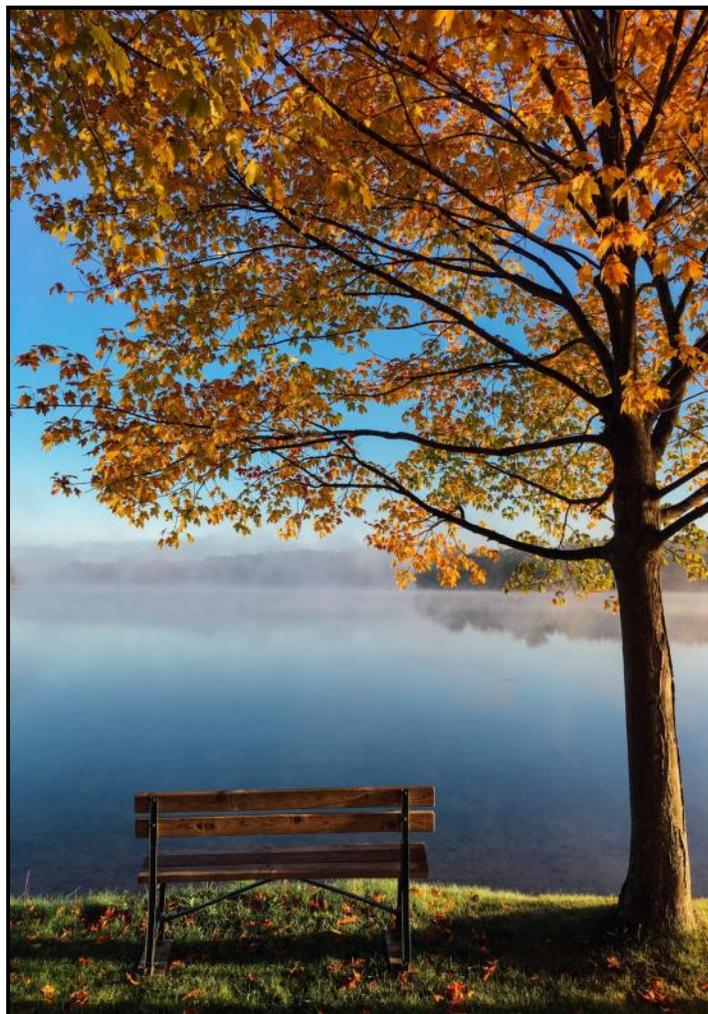
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LEGAL PROTECTIONS FOR PETS

Wednesday, November 30, 2022
12:30 P.M. - 1:30 P.M.

WEBINAR VIA ZOOM



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MEMO

TO ALL RCBA COMMITTEE CHAIRS & VICE – CHAIRS

The Association is seeking articles from your committee for publication in the Bar's monthly Newsletter. The membership would greatly benefit from your input and would appreciate it. The article does not have to be complicated or long- a succinct piece of general interest and importance would be best.

If you are able to submit an article for the Newsletter it should be sent via email to rachael@rocklandbar.org by the 15th of the month so that the Executive Board may review it.

Thank you!



CLE CORNER

PLAN YOUR YEAR OF CLEs NOW!

2022 CLE TITLE	DATE & TIME
<p>November 10, 2022 12:30pm—2:00pm</p>	<p>Transforming Outcomes with Structured Co-Parenting Communication</p>
<p>November 30, 2022 12:30pm—1:30pm</p>	<p>Legal Protections for Pets</p>

NEW CLE REQUIREMENT

In addition to ethics and professionalism, skills, law practice management, and areas of professional practice, a new category was added for diversity, inclusion and elimination of bias courses. This category of credit is effective January 1, 2018.

Experienced attorneys due to re-register on or after July 1, 2018 must complete at least one credit hour in the Diversity, Inclusion and Elimination of Bias CLE category of credit as part of their biennial CLE requirement. The transitional CLE requirement for newly admitted attorneys remains unchanged. For more information about the CLE Rules, visit nycourts.gov/Attorneys/CLE.

CLE REQUIREMENTS

Newly admitted attorneys must complete 32 credit hours of accredited “transitional” education within the first two years of admission to the Bar. Sixteen (16) credit hours must be completed in each of the first two years of admission to the Bar as follows: 3 hours of Ethics and Professionalism; 6 hours of Skills; 7 hours of Practice Management and/or areas of Professional Practice.

Experienced Attorneys must complete 24 credit hours of CLE during each biennial reporting cycle: 4 credit hours must be in Ethics and Professionalism. The other credit hours may be a combination of the following categories: Ethics and Professionalism, Skills, Practice Management or Professional Practice.

FINANCIAL HARDSHIP POLICY:

RCBA members and non-members may apply for tuition assistance to attend Association continuing legal education programs based on financial hardship. Any member or non-member of our Association who has a genuine financial hardship may apply in writing, no later than five working days prior to the program, explaining the basis of his/her hardship, and, if approved, may receive tuition assistance, depending on the circumstances.

COMMITTEE CORNER

Your Committee Chair will contact you regarding any upcoming remote meetings.

20% "Covid Discount" on All Ads—Still in Effect

NEWSBRIEF ADVERTISING RATES

FULL PAGE (7.5x10.25)	\$400.00
1/2 PAGE (7.5x5):	\$250.00
1/4 PAGE (3.75x5):	\$200.00
1/8 PAGE (3.75x2.5):	\$125.00
BUSINESS CARD:	\$75.00

Classified Ad: RCBA Members – free, up to 50 words; over 50 words, cost is \$75.00.

Non-Members, cost is \$50 for up to 50 words; up to 100 words, cost is \$75.

Regular Discounts: 10% for 6 mo. bookings, 20% for 1 year bookings

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ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE RCBA REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE

Please be advised, that after many months of work and coordination between the RCBA, the Real Estate Committee, its Co-Chairs and Members; we are pleased to announce that the RCBA Real Estate Committee has created, voted-on and Approved an updated Real Estate Contract for the first time in Decades!

Co-Chairs Jeff Yanowitz and David Ascher took notes and comments from the Real Estate Committee members over many months to provide this updated Contract to the entire RCBA! We look forward to utilizing this Contract throughout Rockland County and providing a more modern and stream-lined approach to Real Estate Transactions for us all.

Please find two updated contracts (single family home and condominium) on our RCBA website at www.rocklandbar.org. Scroll down to the bottom of the homepage and find links under “Helpful Links.”

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